

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **August 31, 2004**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first and second paragraphs, as the claimed invention is not described in such full, clear, concise and exact terms so as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the same, and/or for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration claim 2 has been amended and claim 4 is withdrawn from consideration. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2 and 4 under 35 USC §112, first and second paragraphs, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1 and 3 (and claims 2, 4 to the extent definite) as rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Chi.

The present invention is a radial bearing (12) structure for a transmission in which the bearing (12) is supported by the bearing housing (11a) on an outer peripheral face (12b) of the outer

ring, and rotatably supports the hub (31a) on the inner peripheral face (12a) of the inner ring. In this bearing (12), the inner ring is formed to be longer and protrude further than the outer ring in the direction of the rotation axis, and an engagement/support face (12c) for enagageably supporting a drive sprocket (92) is formed on the outer periphery of the inner ring. The drive sprocket (92) is able to receive the transmittance of rotating torque by engaging with the hub-side spline (31c) on spline (92c).

Chi describes a frame fork for a bicycle having an upper cap (1) and a lower cap (2). Balls (5) are slidably receivable between the track surface (32) and the annular surface (24). The bearing structure of Chi is a thrust bearing structure.

As recited in claim 1 and shown in figures 5 and 6 the bearing structure of the present invention is a radial bearing structure. However, the bearing structure of Chi as shown in figure 3 is a thrust bearing structure. Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting that the bearing is a radial bearing which supports radial loads.

Specifically, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A bearing structure, comprising: an inner ring; an outer ring coaxially disposed on the outer periphery of said inner ring; a rolling element rollably sandwiched between said inner ring and said outer ring; a supporting part integrally formed with and protruding axially from at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring; wherein, said inner ring being capable of supporting a first member on its inner periphery; said outer ring being capable of supporting a second member on its outer periphery in a relatively rotatable manner to said first member; said supporting part being capable of coaxially supporting a third member and also being integrally and coaxially rotatable with said at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring, wherein said supporting part protrudes in a direction of a rotational axis of the bearing structure and is coaxial with a rotational axis of the inner and outer rings,

wherein a periphery region to which the third member is being fitted, is concentric with the inner periphery of the inner ring as well as the outer periphery of the outer ring; and wherein the bearing structure is a radial bearing which supports radial loads." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 3 (and claims 2, 4 to the extent definite) under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Chi is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims of this application are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.


If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/880,081**
Reply to OA dated August 31, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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